

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing calls comprising the steps of:
receiving a call that specifies a destination address;
checking whether at least one of simultaneous and sequential routing
is active, and if active, accessing a list listing a plurality of destinations;
5 and
originating call legs for destinations in the list according to the results of
the checking step.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the originating step simultaneously
originates a plurality of call legs when the checking step determines that
10 simultaneous routing is active.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the originating step sequentially originates
a plurality of call legs when the checking step determines that sequential
routing is active.
4. The method as recited in claim 3, when the step of checking routing
15 parameters includes at least one of time of day, day of week, and calling party
identity.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising starting a timer for
timing duration of the originated call legs.
6. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising checking a timer for
20 expiration, and if expired, disconnecting any originated call legs.
7. The method as recited in claim 6, comprising routing the received call to the
destination address using default processing.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising detecting an answer by one of originated legs and completing a call connection.
9. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising updating call statuses when one of the call legs is answered.
- 5 10. The method as recited by claim 1, wherein in any step, the any step is performed by at least one of a time division multiplex (TDM) switch, a soft-switch, and a gateway.
11. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the list is administrable by a graphical user interface.
- 10 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the originating step originates a combination of simultaneously originated call legs and sequentially originated call legs as determined by the checking step.
13. A system for processing calls, the system comprising:
- 15 a means for receiving a call that specifies a destination address;
- a means for checking whether at least one of simultaneous and sequential routing is active, and if active, accessing a list listing a plurality of destinations; and
- a means for originating call legs for destinations in the list according to the results of the checking step.
- 20 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the means for originating call legs simultaneously originates a plurality of call legs if the checking step determines that simultaneous routing is active and sequentially originates a plurality of calls if the checking step determines that sequential routing is active.
- 25 15. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the means for checking provides for checking parameters that include at least one of time of day, day

of week, and calling party identity, the parameters controlling conditions when the originating step occurs.

16. The system as recited in claim 13, further comprising a means for starting a timer for timing duration of the simultaneously originated call legs.

5 17. The system as recited in claim 16, further comprising a means for checking the timer for expiration, and if expired, abandoning the simultaneously originated call legs.

18. The system as recited in claim 13, further comprising a means for routing the received call to the destination address using default processing.

10 19. The system as recited in claim 13, further comprising a means for detecting an answer by an originated call leg and completing a call connection.

20. The system as recited in claim 13, further comprising a means for updating call statuses when one of the call legs is answered.

15 21. The system as recited by claim 13, wherein the means for originating is one of a gateway and a soft-switch.

22. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the list is administrable by a graphical user interface.

20 23. The system as recited by claim 13, wherein at least one of the originated call legs are process by at least one of a time division multiplex (TDM) switch, a soft-switch, and a gateway.

24. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for originating call legs originates a combination of simultaneously originated call legs and sequentially originated call legs.

25. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer program product includes:

- 5 a first software component to receive a call that specifies a destination address;
- a second software component to check whether at least one of simultaneous and sequential routing is active, and if active, accessing a list listing a plurality of destinations; and
- 10 a third software component to originate call legs for destinations in the list according to the results of the checking step.